

Regarding 255-258: Abuse of CA's

As a VRS interpreter, I have personally experienced abuse from callers directed at me. I would like to know how the FCC will reconcile the expectation from OSHA that the work environment be free from sexual harassment. In other work settings, employers are legally required to provide training and mechanisms for documenting incidents and reporting methods. Disciplinary action may be taken against another employee who is initiating the abuse. What liability will VRS providers incur if the FCC does not allow VRS CAs to terminate calls or remove themselves from calls where they are being abused? I say it would be great and potentially costly. The frequency with which I personally have seen these types of calls occur is more than once per twenty work hours. I doubt a court would find that VRS interpreters should enjoy fewer rights or not expect a safe work place. Is it appropriate for VRS interpreters to have to forfeit those same rights that other workers in this country enjoy for the sake of the callers First Amendment rights?